

GREEN

in the Castaic Aquatic

Center

How does the
Castaic Aquatic
Center protect our
environment?

County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks & Recreation
North Community Services Agency

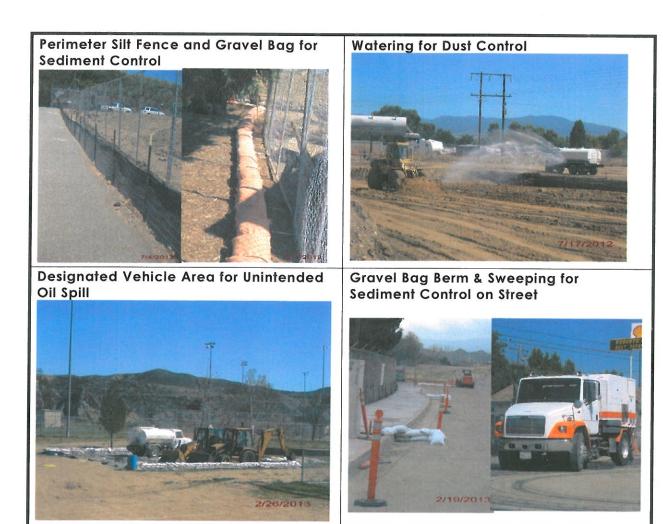


SUSTAINABLE SITE

Construction Activity Pollution Prevention

During construction, the land is disturbed and exposed to foot and equipment traffic, precipitation and wind erosion which results in the loss of topsoil. Loss of topsoil reduces the soil's ability to support plant life. Without plants or temporary protection, the soil carried by storm water off-site can pollute adjacent sites and potentially affect water quality. The dirt carried by wind greatly impacts the air quality and may also cause traffic hazards.

An erosion and sedimentation control plan (Storm Water Pollution and Prevention Plan) was developed and implemented during the construction phase to reduce the impact to the environment and people. The following measures are examples of construction activity pollution prevention conducted in this project.





Alternative Transportation

The extensive use of single-occupancy vehicles in Southern California increases energy demand and associated greenhouse emissions, and also encroaches on greenspace in order to accommodate more parking. Public transportation, bicycles, low-emitting/fuel efficient vehicles, and car-pooling greatly reduces the use of single-occupancy vehicles, the reliance on fuel and its associated pollution. The effects of vehicle use include direct exhaust, greenhouse gas emissions, smog and air pollution, as well as, environmental impacts from oil extraction, petroleum refining, pollution and energy consumption by oil transportation. While many people understand the environmental impacts of single-occupany vehicle use, many single drivers are on the road out of convenience. The excuses could be there is no mass transportation near-by, no bicycle storage, no preferred parking space for low-emitting vehicles, and no car-pools.

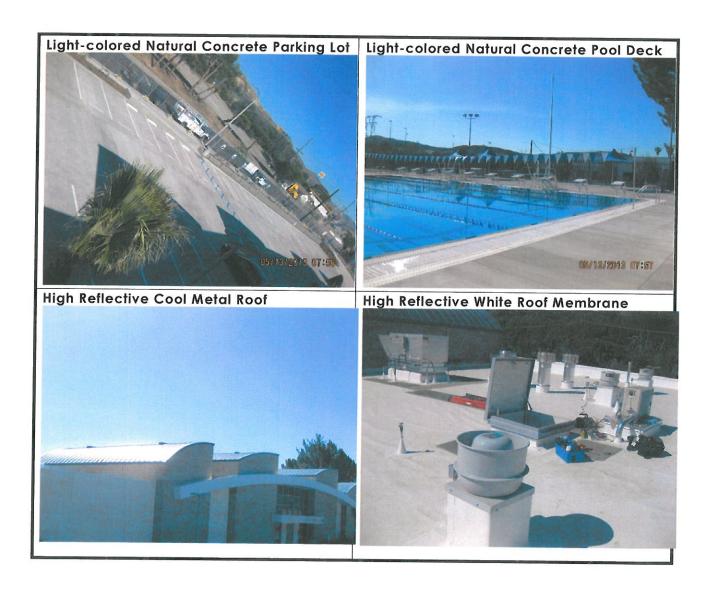
There is a two-route bus stop in Castaic (City of Santa Clarita Transit, route 1 and 636) on Ridge Route Road at the corner of Castaic Road - only a four-minute walk. This facility also has bicycle rack as well as preferred parking spaces for low-emitting vehicles and carpools to encourage the reduction in single-occupancy vehicle use.





Heat Island Effect

Heat island effect refers to the absorption of heat by hardscape, such as dark, non-reflective parking pavement and building roofing, and its radiation to surrounding areas. Particularly in urban areas, other sources may include vehicle exhaust, airconditioners, and street equipment. Reduced airflow between tall buildings and narrow streets exacerbates the effect. The use of dark and non-reflective surface pavement and roofing material contributes to the heat island effect by absorbing the sun radiation, then radiating absorbed heat into the surroundings, and increasing ambient temperatures. Particularly during the summer, the heat island impacts include increased energy consumption, elevated emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases, compromised human health and comfort, and impaired water quality. Instead of using a dark, non-reflective roof or pavement, using light-colored materials does not raise the overall temperature. During the design phase, light-color pavement and roofing material were chosen to minimize the heat island effect.



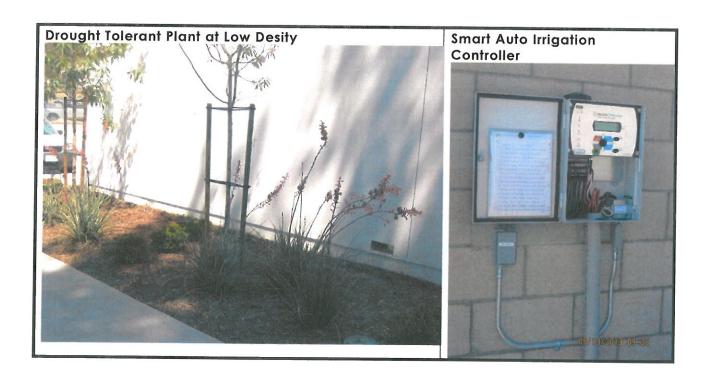


WATER EFFICIENCY

Water Efficient Landscaping

Landscape irrigation in the United States consumes 30% of potable water daily. Overirrigation typically occurs in Southern California due to poor landscaping design and expensive advanced irrigation installation. The landscaping design at the Castaic Aquatic Center utilizes low dense and drought-tolerant plant species that require minimal water and saves over 50% water use comparing with conventional design. Landscape areas are mulched to conserve moisture and prevent evaporative water loss from the soil surface, so the need for irrigation during dry season is reduced. Turf grass, which requires a large amount of water for maintenance, is not applied. The irrigation system, including dripping irrigation combined with a smart irrigation controller, also reduces water use and associated conveying energy consumption.

The automatic irrigation controller in Castaic Aquatic Center is the industry's most advanced central control, and includes integrated flow management, alert notifications, real-time diagnostics and remote control. It adjusts irrigation based on evapotranspiration data and the water needs at each landscape station. Accordingly, it dramatically reduces excess irrigation water that plants do not need.

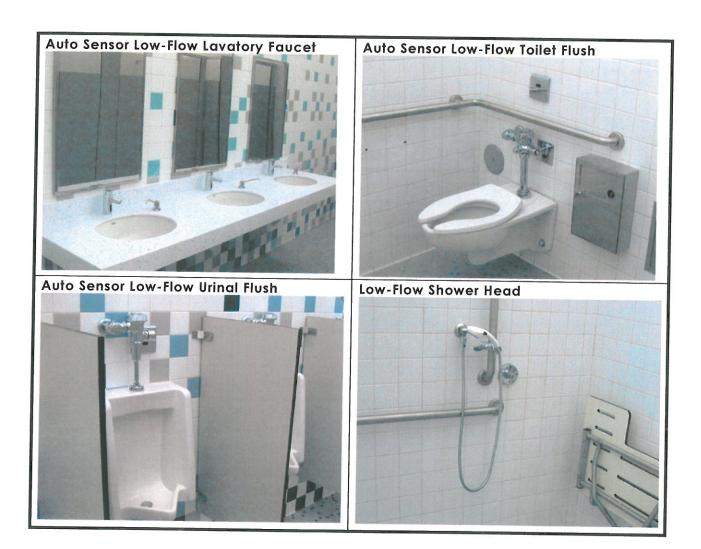




Water Use Reduction

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the United States uses 400 billion gallons of water per day, and the operation of buildings accounts for 12% of total water use. Reducing water for urinals, toilets, showerheads and faucets decreases building operation cost and the amount water withdrawn from rivers, streams, underground aquifers, and other water bodies. In addition, reducing potable water usage reduces energy usage and chemical inputs for water treatment, and the associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Many water-effective systems and fixtures were introduced to minimize the water usage. Such auto sensor low-flow flush/faucet and low-flow shower head installed in Castaic Aquatic Center meet the daily sanitation requirement and reduce the potable and waste water treatment and transportation energy consumption.





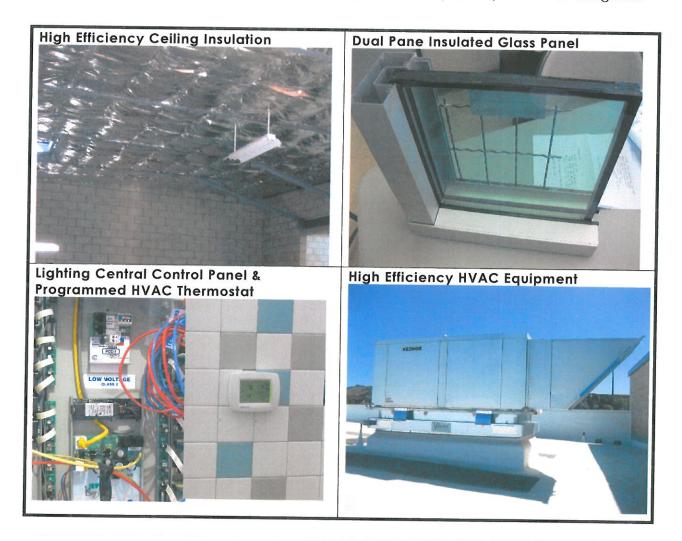
ENERGY AND ATMOSPHERE

Optimize Energy Performance

The most common source of energy is fossil fuel, such as coal and oil. The extracting process and transportation of fossil fuels carry many environmental impacts, including air and water pollution, land degradation, solid waste generation, and greenhouse gas emissions. These impacts relevant to energy usage are connected to climate change that poses risks to ecosystems, the environment, and human health and safety.

The energy saving strategy was discussed between the County of Los Angeles, Perera Construction & Design (the design-build contractor), the architect, and engineers. The goal was to reduce the energy consumption beyond what is required by the state of California's strict energy performance requirement. The strategy to optimize energy performance was to reduce demand and increase efficiency.

- (1) Reduce Demand
 - a. Insulated building envelope to reduce energy usage by HVAC system.
 - b. Programed lighting and HVAC control to reduce unnecessary energy usage.
- (2) Increase Efficiency
 - a. High efficiency HVAC, lighting and water heating system.
 - b. Commissioning prior to occupancy to ensure systems perform as designed.





MATERIAL AND RESOURCES

Construction Waste Management

Construction and demolition generate enormous amount of solid waste. Most construction waste goes into landfills, increasing the burden on landfill loading and operation, and it can result in soil and water pollution. The incineration facility consumes energy and exhausts greenhouse gas. The greatest way to minimize landfill or incineration burden is to reduce the total generated waste.

In this project, more than 75% of construction and demolition debris was diverted from disposal in landfills and incineration facilities, and redirected back into the manufacturing process. Any reusable materials were directed to the appropriate site. The most important step for recycling of construction waste was on-site separation, which took extra effort and training of construction personnel. The waste management plan was prepared prior to the project, and commenced by coordinating with the subcontractors and Waste Management company. Construction personnel were instructed on the waste management plan during weekly meetings.

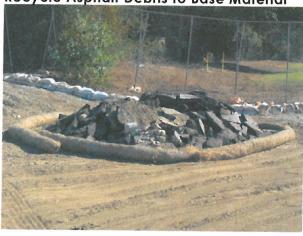








Recycle Asphalt Debris to Base Material



Recycle Concrete Debris to Base Material

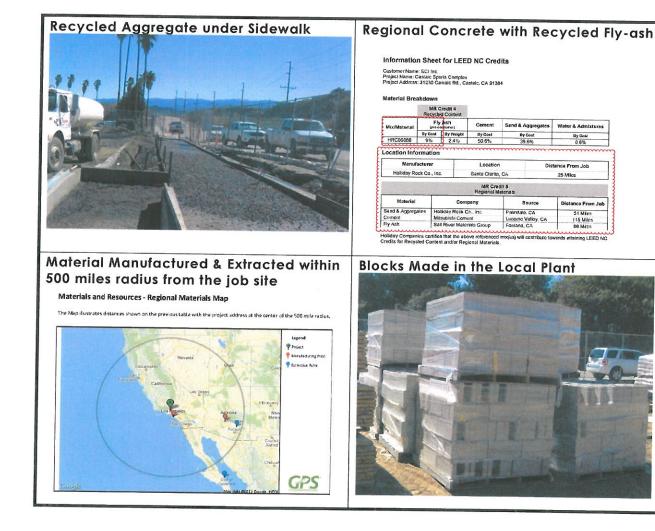




Recycled Content & Regional Material

It takes less energy to create new items from recycled materials than creating new products from raw materials. Mining minerals and milling trees into lumber require large amounts of energy. Also, extracting materials from mines or forests is done far from the place where goods are consumed. However, the material recycled and used in local areas reduces transportation energy and pollution. Using regional materials also reduces transportation activities and associated pollution.

The material available locally with high recycling content was the first priority during the design and construction phases. The most commonly used material usually contained higher recycled content and was available locally. Recycled aggregate from local recycling facilities was used as the sidewalk and road base. Locally manufactured and extracted gypsum board was utilized as much as possible to meet the design objective. Fly ash - the residues generated in combustion - was permitted to substitute about 15% of cement, which is made from raw limestone. The CMU block used in this building was manufactured at a local block plant in Sun Valley, CA. 100% of raw materials were extracted locally within a 500 mile radius.



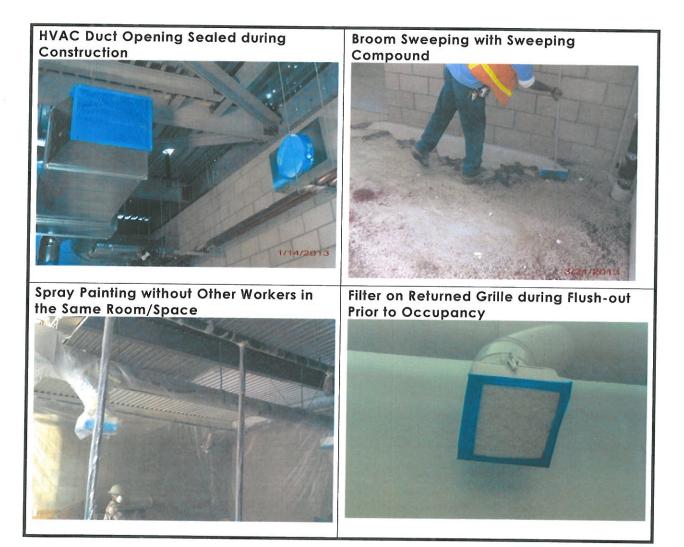


INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Construction Indoor Air Quality

Construction workers are exposed to indoor air pollutants generated by synthetic building materials, power equipment, vehicles, new furnishings, and finish materials for long periods of time. If construction activity pollution is not addressed, the poor indoor air quality can last through the lifetime of the building. The effort to reduce indoor air pollution improves working conditions for construction personnel, lowers absenteeism, and increases productivity. Implementing the indoor air quality (IAQ) management plan, during construction and before occupancy, minimizes potential contamination problems.

The IAQ management Plan, which detailed the specific measures, was developed and executed by Perera Construction & Design, to minimize the construction impact to indoor air quality. The measures include (1) HVAC protection, (2) Source Control, (3) Pathway Interruption, (4) Housekeeping, and (5) Scheduling. The HVAC system was operated when no additional construction work occurred prior to occupancy to flush containment air out of the building.





Low-Emitting Material

Low-emitting materials are products that do not release significant pollutants into the indoor environment. Products with high VOC (volatile organic compounds) are typically adhesives, sealants, paints, coatings, flooring, composite wood and agrifiber products. High VOC content tend to be odorous, irritating, and detrimental to the comfort and well-being of installers and occupants. VOCs also react with sunlight and nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere to form ground-level ozone, which is a major component of smog and has negative effects on human health and ecosystems.

All materials that might emit contaminants (VOCs) to the indoor air were carefully reviewed by the project team based on the most current standards. They include all surfaces in contact with indoor air inside of the building weather proof envelope. A comprehensive VOC limit chart was provided by a LEED consultant to ensure materials met the indoor low-emitting standards. Carpet and its adhesive were tested and certified by Green Label Plus for low VOC emissions. Wood products including wood door and cabinet did not contain formaldehyde which is known to be an irritant and harmful to health.

